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## Blaming tribe merely a cover-up

May. 17, 2006 12:00 AM

Regarding "Tribe missed education opportunity" (Editorial, Saturday):

Your opinion is flawed in several respects. First, it assumes that members of the Gila River Indian Community cannot obtain a higher education unless it is offered on the reservation. Native Americans do leave the reservation for many things, including education. Your opinion wrongly depicts the tribal government as intentionally erecting barriers to higher education for its members and the surrounding community.

Second, master planning is a wise and regularly repeated function of any government.

The city of Phoenix, Arizona Department of Transportation and other arms of state government failed to make and adhere to plans for roads, schools and open space. Now, those governments seek to use tribal lands in an attempt to cover up governmental failures.

Like any other government, the tribe is not required to host land uses that are inconsistent with that government's land-use plans or that could negatively impact future planned uses of property.

Finally, your opinion represents a paternalistic attitude seemingly put forth to impugn the collective integrity, competency and knowledge of the tribe and its members and to avoid true issues: the failure of state and local government to effectively plan for growth in the Ahwatukee area. - **Bradley Downes,**  
**Phoenix**

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